Epi Update for Friday, August 2, 2019
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- **Cyclosporiasis reports continuing to increase in Iowa and nationally**
- **Summer influenza testing guidance: Confirm positives, watch for novel influenza**
- **In the news: Bangladesh reports more than 13,000 dengue cases in July**
- **In the news: People in the United States are misusing antibiotics, study says**
- **In the news: Where rabies is entrenched**
- **Infographic: Take action to prevent the spread of flu between pigs and people**

Cyclosporiasis reports continuing to increase in Iowa and nationally

Cyclosporiasis reports are increasing in Iowa, with 87 laboratory confirmed cases reported so far this year. Cases are also increasing nationally. One multistate outbreak of Cyclospora infections has been linked to imported fresh basil from Siga Logistics de RL de CV of Morelos, Mexico. Many cases of cyclosporiasis cannot be directly linked to an outbreak, in part because of the lack of validated molecular typing tools for C. cayetanensis.

Health care providers should consider cyclosporiasis in patients presenting with persistent watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, cramping, bloating, gas, nausea and fatigue. If untreated, symptoms can persist for several weeks to months. If cyclosporiasis is suspected, please collect a stool specimen and request *Cyclospora*-specific testing, either via acid-fast staining on an O&P or via PCR testing. Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) is the preferred and most effective treatment for *Cyclospora* infection.

Laboratories, please send *Cyclospora*-positive specimens (including those tested via PCR) to SHL for further characterization. There is no fee for this additional characterization. Submitters will not receive a final report. Specimens may be submitted in Cary-Blair, Total-Fix, Proto-Fix, Eco-Fix or no preservative. Samples in formalin are not accepted. The preservative and diagnostic method used should be written on the submission form, available at www.shl.uiowa.edu/news/files/sendingcyclosporashl.pdf.

For questions, contact IDPH's Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 800-362-2736.

For more information about cyclosporiasis, visit www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/**.**

Summer influenza testing guidance: Confirm positives, watch for novel influenza

Influenza testing strategy changes during summer, when influenza is not typically circulating. When influenza prevalence is low, positive predictive value is therefore also low, especially for rapid tests. However, summer is often when sporadic cases of novel influenza occur, connected to animal exposures at agricultural fairs or during international travel.

Due to the increased likelihood of false positives and the potential for novel influenza, IDPH asks that providers continue testing patients who present with influenza-like illness during the summer, especially if they report exposure to pigs or poultry.

Laboratories, please send positive influenza specimens to SHL for confirmation and potential detection of novel viruses.

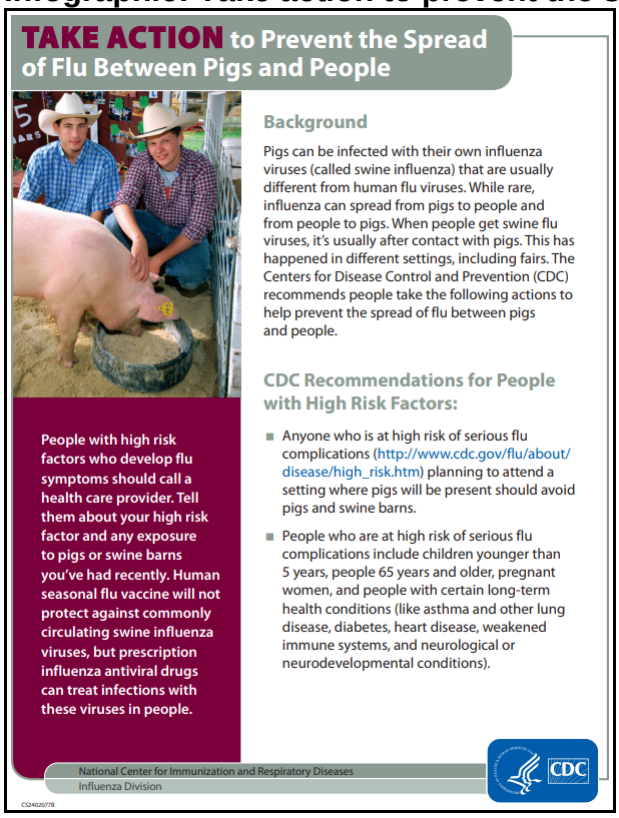
For more information about influenza testing at SHL, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/dcd/influenza/index.xml.

In the news: Bangladesh reports more than 13,000 dengue cases in July
www.npr.org/2019/07/31/747012629/bangladesh-reports-more-than-13-000-dengue-cases-in-july

In the news: People in the United States are misusing antibiotics, study says
www.cnn.com/2019/07/25/health/antibiotics-unprescribed-study/index.html

In the news: Where rabies is entrenched
www.nytimes.com/2019/07/22/science/rabies-dogs-global.html

Infographic: Take action to prevent the spread of flu between pigs and people



To view in full size, visit www.cfsph.iastate.edu/YouthInAg/Assets/prevent-spread-flu-pigs-at-fairs.pdf.

Have a healthy and happy week!
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health
800-362-2736